



# CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

## 24-HOUR REPORT

22 NOVEMBER 2022

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### (U) CALIFORNIA

#### (U) San Diego – Abandoned Panga Boat Found Near Pacific Beach

(U) US Immigration authorities were called out to Pacific Beach yesterday to investigate a suspected smuggling incident after lifeguards spotted an abandoned panga on shore. The 20-foot fishing vessel was located shortly before 6 a.m. on the beach in the area south of Crystal Pier, a US Border Patrol spokesperson said. Authorities also discovered multiple personal flotation devices and seven fuel canister. Pangas, low-lying fishing boats with outboard motors, are frequently used by smugglers bringing people into the US illegally.

SOURCE: 21 November 2022, [Fox 5 San Diego](#)

### (U) NATIONAL

#### (U) Georgia – Eight Arrested in Human Trafficking Investigation

(U) Lawrenceville – A major Gwinnett County human trafficking investigation led to the arrest of eight people and the rescue of four women who had been trafficked in homes and motel rooms across the county, according to state and municipal investigators. The Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Section led the investigation, which involves the sale of a minor and spans from January to July 2022, according to arrest warrants. Nine people in total have been charged with various crimes related to human trafficking, street gang associations and in some cases violation of the Racketeer-Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act. A Snellville short-term rental is where investigators say multiple suspects helped sell a minor for sex. Advocates for human trafficking survivors say that traffickers are migrating away from motels, where trafficking training is conducted more often among staff, and toward short-term rental homes.

SOURCE: 21 November 2022, [WSB Cox](#)

#### (U) Ohio – Man Arrested for Making Online Threats Against California Middle School

(U) Centerville – FBI agents have arrested a Centerville, Ohio, man on federal charges related to online threats to commit a mass shooting at a California school. Alex Jaques, 21, has been charged federally with making interstate threats. According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, on 15 November, the FBI National Threat Operations Center (NTOC) received a tip about a video Jaques allegedly posted on YouTube. In the video, Jaques allegedly uses multiple firearms to shoot a Chromebook computer and threatens to attack Washington Middle School in Salinas, California. Law enforcement communicated with school officials in Salinas, California, and discovered that Jaques had been a student at a school within the same county.

SOURCE: 21 November 2022, [US DOJ](#)

#### (U) Washington – Two Estonians Arrested in \$575M Cryptocurrency Fraud

(U) Seattle – Police in Estonia have arrested two men accused in a \$575 million cryptocurrency fraud, US authorities said yesterday. An indictment unsealed in US District Court in Seattle charged Estonian citizens Sergei Potapenko and Ivan Turogin, both aged 37, with wire fraud and conspiracy to commit money laundering. Four other people living in Estonia, Belarus and Switzerland were also charged, but

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their identities were not released. Prosecutors said the suspects tricked hundreds-of-thousands of people from 2015 to 2019 into buying contracts for a cryptocurrency mining service called HashFlare and investing in a virtual currency bank called Polybius Bank. In reality the businesses operated as pyramid schemes, prosecutors said. The men are accused of using shell companies to launder the fraud proceeds, and to purchase real estate and luxury cars. The pair are in custody in Estonia pending extradition to the US, the Justice Department said.

SOURCE: 21 November 2022, [Associated Press](#)

### **(U) INTERNATIONAL**

#### **(U) Kenya – Al-Shabaab Gunman Kills Three Kenyan Peacekeepers**

(U) Nairobi – A lone gunman entered a military base in Somalia and killed at least three Kenyan peacekeepers yesterday, the latest attack by extremist fighters who oppose the presence of foreigners in the Horn of Africa nation, according to Kenya's military. The gunman fired his rifle indiscriminately, wounding five other soldiers before he was gunned down, said a Kenyan military official. Al-Shabaab through its media confirmed it had carried out the attack.

SOURCE: 21 November 2022, [Associated Press](#)

#### **(U) Nigeria – Gunmen Abduct Dozens in Zamfara State**

(U) Abuja – At least 130 people have been kidnapped by gunmen in Nigeria's north-western state of Zamfara. Gunmen on motorcycles raided two areas taking women, children and the elderly, Ibrahim Dosara, the state's information commissioner, said. Security forces have been deployed to rescue the victims. Zamfara is among several Nigerian states grappling with kidnapping for ransom. The kidnapping happened over the weekend in Zurmi and Kauran-Namoda areas, Mr. Dosara said. The gunmen were using the victims as "human shields" because of the ongoing "heavy bombardments" of their hideouts, he added.

SOURCE: 21 November 2022, [BBC](#)

#### **(U) Thailand – Car Bomb Kills One, Injures Nearly 30 in Southern Thailand**

(U) Bangkok – At least one person was killed and 29 wounded when a car bomb exploded inside a police compound in southern Thailand on Tuesday, a police official said. "It was a car bomb. We are still clearing the area and the number of injured could increase," said Lieutenant Colonel Niti Suksan, deputy police commissioner of Narathiwat province, adding that one police officer was killed. Provinces in southern Thailand along the border with Malaysia have seen a decades-long, low-level insurgency, in which the Thai government has battled shadowy groups seeking independence.

SOURCE: 22 November 2022, [Reuters](#)

#### **(U) Venezuela – Colombian Government, Guerilla Group Resume Peace**

(U) Caracas – The Colombian government and the South American country's largest remaining guerrilla group resumed peace talks yesterday, breaking a roughly four-year hiatus during which, the rebels have expanded the territory where they operate. Neighboring Venezuela, whose government resumed diplomatic relations with Colombia only a few months ago, hosted the representatives of the National Liberation Army and the government of President Gustavo Petro. The National Liberation Army, commonly referred to by its Spanish acronym ELN, was founded in the 1960s by students, union leaders and priests inspired by Cuba's revolution. The group is believed to have about 4,000 fighters in Colombia, and is also present in Venezuela, where it runs illegal gold mines and drug trafficking routes.

SOURCE: 21 November 2022, [Associated Press](#)

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